

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1-20 presently stand rejected. Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,608 B1 to Papa et al. (hereinafter “Papa”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,978 B1 to Eide et al. (hereinafter “Eide”).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part,

a network communications link ... substantially disposed within the housing, wherein the **first processor is enabled to communicate with a peripheral device adapted to be coupled within the housing ... by transmitting data ... over the network communications link using packetized messages** based on a network transmission protocol.

Amended independent claim 6 now recites, in pertinent part,

a communications link between the first and second network interfaces substantially disposed within the housing, **the communication link using packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol to provide communication between the first processor and the first peripheral device.**

Independent claim 14 recites, in pertinent part,

A method for enabling **communication between a peripheral device disposed within a computing machine having a processor** and an application running on the processor, comprising:

...

transferring the messages between the processor and the peripheral device using packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol.

Accordingly, Applicants note that claims 1, 6, and 14 all recite in one form or another, using packetized messages to communicate **between** a processor and a peripheral device both disposed substantially within the housing of an apparatus or a computing machine.

The Examiner acknowledges that Papa fails to disclose using packetized messages to communicate between a processor and a peripheral device. However, the Examiner cites Eide as teaching this element.

In fact, referring to FIG. 1, Eide discloses a processing complex 11 (including a processor 12 and main storage 14) coupled to a system I/O bus 18 having a number of locations/slots 20. "Each location 20 on bus 18 is configured to receive an input/output processor (IOP) or input/output adaptor (IOA)...." *Eide*, col. 4, lines 40-42. Eide further discloses

In addition, any number of hardware devices may be coupled to I/O interface 16 consistent with the invention. For example, **an interface to a network 22** may be provided, e.g., to provide communications capability using any number of network protocols (e.g., IPX, TCP/IP, SNA, etc.).

Eide, col. 5, lines 10-14 (emphasis added). Thus, Eide discloses coupling a peripheral device to system I/O bus 18 to communicate over a network 22 using network protocols. However, Eide simply does not teach or even suggest communicating between a peripheral device and processor 12 over system I/O bus 18 using packetized messages.

Finally, Eide further discloses,

An IOA generally refers to the interface control logic for a peripheral component that implements a particular type of connection, e.g., Ethernet, RS232, twinaxial, SCSI, etc.

Eide, col. 1, lines 35-37. Referring to FIG. 2, Eide does not teach or suggest communicating between processor 12 and any of IOPs 44 using packetized messages. The immediately above-cited portion of Eide simply indicates that IOAs 46 represent interface control logic to peripheral devices 48 that may implement a particular type of connection, including Ethernet. However, at no time does Eide teach or suggest that peripheral devices 48 communicate with **processor 12** using packetized messages. Rather, FIG. 1 discloses that peripheral devices may communicate with **external networks** (e.g., network 22) using packetized messages.

Consequently, the combination of Papa and Eide fails to teach or suggest all elements of claims 1, 6, and 14, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 6, and 14 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-13, and 15-20 are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103(a) rejections for claims 2-5, 7-13, and 15-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

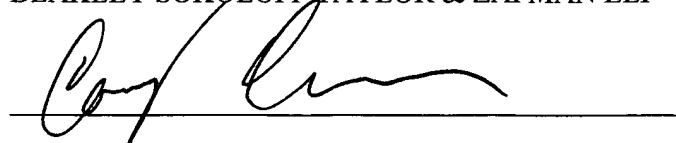
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 26, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory G. Claassen', is written over a horizontal line.

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